

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00316 251531Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5150

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MP

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

1. LE CERNEEN, WHICH IS ONE OF THE OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILIES IN THE WORLD AND MOST ANTI-COMMUNIST, PRO-WEST PAPER IN PORT LOUIS, HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING NEWSPRINT AT CUT-RATE PRICE. EDITOR CLAIMS PAPER IS IN DANGER OF CEASING PUBLICATION IF IT CANNOT SOLVE ITS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

2. LE CERNEEN CONSUMES 60 TONS PER YEAR OF STANDARD, WHITE NEWSPRINT, 52 GRAMS, SIZE 22 1/2" X 35". IT USES REAMS OF 500 OF 1,000 SHEETS. IT NOW PAYS US \$525 PER METRIC TON CIF PORT LOUIS.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON POSSIBILITY LE CERNEEN OBTAINING CHEAPER NEWSPRINT OR ASSISTANCE FOR PRESENT PURCHASES. WE RECOGNIZE OBVIOUS DRAWBACKS SHOULD IT APPEAR U.S. INVOLVED IN SUBSIDIZING LOCAL PAPER, BUT SOVIETS AND OTHERS HERE PROBABLY HAVE FEW SUCH SCRUPLES. MANHARD

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Message Attributes

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